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The Slavs of Austria-Hungary

BY

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The Slavs of Austria-Hungary

THE SLAVS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Who are the Slavs? They are a people who some two thousand years before Christ, settled around the Baltic sea and later upon the Danube. Philologists are disagreed as to whether the cradle of the Slavic race should be placed in the neighborhood of the Baltic or further south near the present Balkan territory. Be that as it may, philologists are unanimous in asserting the relationship of the Slavic tongues to the Indo-European or Aryan languages.

SLAVS ARE INDO-EUROPEANS

So many people are under the impression that the Slavic tongues are wholly alien to the other languages of Europe that a brief statement of what groups constitute the Indo-European family of languages will not be amiss. This family includes eight main branches each of which has several sub-divisions. The first or Aryan includes the Indian, and the Iranian and those in turn have sub-divisions which are represented by the Sanskrit, the Zend and the old and modern Persian. The second is the Armenian branch. The third is the Hellenic, which includes all the ancient Greek dialects as well as modern Greek. The fourth is the Albanian branch spoken in ancient Illyria and in modern

Albania. The fifth is the Italic branch represented by the Latin and other dead dialects and by the modern Romance languages, as French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. The sixth is the Celtic branch with sub-divisions of the Gallic, Brittanic and Gaelic and those in their turn represented by the Cornish, Irish, Scotch-Gaelic and Manx. The seventh branch of the Indo-European family is the Teutonic which embraces three main groups, the Gothic, now extinct; the Norse, including the Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and the Icelandic; the West Germanic, which is represented by the German, the Saxon, Flemish, Dutch, Low Franconian, Frisian and English. The eighth branch is the Slavonic, sometimes called Balto-Slavic. The languages developed around the Baltic sea were the old Prussian, the Lithuanian and the Lettic.

SLAVIC DIVISIONS

The best authentic division of the Slavs today according to Dr. Lubor Niederle, professor of Archeology and Ethnology at the Czech University at Prague, capital of Bohemia and also of the new Republic of Czechoslovakia, is about as follows:

1. The Russian stem; recently a strong tendency is manifested toward the recognition within this stem of two nationalities, the Great-Russians and the Small-Russians.

2. The Polish stem; united, with the exception of the small group of the Kašub Slavs, about whom it is as yet uncertain whether they form a part of the Poles or a remnant of the former Baltic Slavs.

3. The Lužice-Serbian stem; dividing into an upper and a lower branch.

4. The Bohemian or *čech* and Slovak stem; inseparable in Bohemia and in Moravia, but with a tendency toward individualization among the Hungarian Slovaks.

5. The Slovenian stem.

6. The *Srbo-Chorvat* (Serbian-Croatian) stem, in which political and cultural, but especially religious, conditions have produced a separation into two nationalities, the Serbian and the Croatian; and

7. The Bulgarian stem, united. Only in Macedonia is it still undecided whether to consider the indigenous Slavs as Bulgarians or Serbians, or perhaps as an independent branch.

PROOFS OF KINSHIP OF LANGUAGES

The common origin of the Indo-European languages is determined mainly by two tests which the philologists apply. These proofs of kinship are a similar structure or inflectional system and a common root system.

Practically all of the common words in use in any of the languages belonging to the Indo-European family are fair illustrations of the strong relationship existing among the eight branches, and are proofs of an original or parent tongue known to nearly all of the now widely dispersed nations of Europe. For instance, the word "mother" in the modern languages has these forms: In the French, it is "*mère*," abbreviated from the older Italic tongue, Latin, where it was "*mater*," in the Spanish "*madre*;" in the German it is "*Mutter*;" in the Scotch the word becomes "*mither*;" in the Bohemian or Czech it is "*mater*" or "*matka*;" and in the Russian it is "*mat*" or "*mater*."

The English verb, "to be," conjugated in the present tense is:

I am	we are
you are	you are
he is	they are

It becomes "*esse*" in the Latin and has, in the present tense, these forms:

sum	sumus
es	estes
est	sunt

In the Czech, the present indicative of "býti" (to be) is,

já jsem	my jsme
ty jsi	vy jste
on jest	oni jsou

The German is:

ich bin	wir sind
du bist	ihr sind
er ist	sie sind

The natural similarity of words in the Slavic languages is obviously even greater and more pronounced than the resemblance of words in the various Indo-European tongues.

Thus, the word "mother" in the principal Slavic tongues has three forms: Russian, *mati*; Czech, *mati* or *mateř*; Serbian, *mati*; Polish, *matka*; Bulgarian, *majka* or *mama*. The word for "water" is "*voda*" in all of the above languages except in Polish where it is "*woda*." The verb "to sit" is, in Russian, *sidět*; in Czech, *seděti*; Serbian, *sediti*; Polish, *siedzieć*; Bulgarian, *sědja*. One could trace this similarity of roots and suffixes in all the words common in the experi-

ence of our ancestors. The examples given are but two of hundreds or even thousands, which conclusively show that the Slavic tongues are philologically related to the other Indo-European tongues.

HUNGARIANS ARE NOT SLAVS

This relation or similarity of the European languages cannot be extended, however, to all tongues spoken upon the continent of Europe. We must except the Hungarian or Magyar, the Finnish and also the Turkish languages. These languages belong to a totally different family called the Ural-Altaic or Tartaric. They are not, then, to be confused with any of the Indo-European branches of languages, although, very unfortunately, there are great numbers of people who do confuse them. One is constantly meeting with people who have the impression that the Huns or Hungarians are Slavs and that they have a speech in common with the Poles, Bohemians and Russians. This is an error which everyone should take pains to correct for it has already led to any number of wrong impressions and conclusions about Slavic people. It is not always the uninitiated but apparently the well educated "intellectual" who makes the mistake of jumbling together nationalities of Europe which have nothing in common. Some time ago Julian Warne in his book about the coal regions of Pennsylvania indiscriminately classes as Slavs such dissimilar peoples as Magyars or Hungarians, Italians, etc. Then, this writer who sets himself up as an authority on the nationalities represented in our anthracite coal regions, after devoting pages to a discussion of the manners and customs of South Italians and transplanted natives of Hungary, calls his book "The Slav Invasion." There are numerous other

writers of books and contributors to our periodical literature who have just as hazy an idea of what the word "Slav" includes or represents. Some, indeed, are so ignorant or else so indolently disregarding of significance as to let the term "Slav" or "Slavic" stand for any nation whatsoever from the south or east coast of Europe.

ORIGIN OF WORD "SLAV"

The etymology of the word "Slav" was not absolute for some time. Some philologists connected it with the word "sláva" which means "glory" or "the glorious race." Others, and the numbers of such linguistic students or scholars exceed the former school, have accepted the theory of Joseph Dobrovsky, the Bohemian philologist, who asserted that the term comes from "slovo" which signifies "word" or "those who know words." The term in the original Slavic is "Slovan" which is more closely allied in appearance and sound to the word from which it is derived. Dobrovsky claimed that the earliest ancestors of the present Slavs called themselves "Slované" or "men who knew words or languages" in contradistinction to the Germans who did not know their words or language and hence were called "Němci" from "němý" meaning "dumb." The Slavic name for Germans, oddly enough, has remained "Němci" or "the dumb ones" to this day. This dubbing of a neighbor nation which is dissimilar in language and customs recalls the practice of the ancient Greeks who named all other nations who were not Greeks "barbarians."

SLAV TYPES

Prof. Niederle states that anthropologically "the Slavs are characterized by a mostly rounded head, good cranial

capacity, medium stature, and a good physical development. In complexion they range from brunette to blonde, the former predominating among the southern Slavs and among the Malorussians, while blondes are more numerous among the northern parts of the stock, and especially among the Belorussians." He asserts that the Slavs who emigrate to the United States "become completely assimilated with the indigenous population within two generations."

WHERE THE SLAVS LIVE

Until recent times, the average newspaper reader who came upon the word "Slav" in the daily budget of war news had but a confused conception of where the Slavic nations live. With the exception of Russia, no other of the Slavic countries can be successfully located on a map by the ordinary person. There are even school teachers and, doubtless, many college professors as well who, before the present war for the life of them, could not have told, off-hand, the location of Serbia, Montenegro, Bohemia or Ukraina.

The Slavic countries extend from the western shores of the Pacific to the Baltic, Adriatic, Aegian and Black Seas. Sweeping across Siberia and beyond the Urals westward over the Oder and Elbe to the Bohemian forest of Sumava, the Slavic territory extends far into the Alps and to the very source of the river Save.

In the seventh century the Slavs owned all the land from Carinthia up to and including the Elbe territory. In that period more than half of the Germany of today was inhabited by Slavs who neighbored with the Saxons and Angles as far north as Kiel. The Polabians, a Slavic group living along the Elbe or "Labe," as the Czechs call it, op-

posed Germanization until the eighteenth century. The very names "Prussia" and "Berlin" by a strange trick of fate are Slavic in origin and were words coined by a people every characteristic of whom is un-Prussian and anti-Berlin as these terms are understood today. At the present time, of all the original thousands of Slavs in Prussia and Saxony there remain only a few scattering groups of Lusatian Serbs.

To detail the geographic location of each Slavonic nation more definitely—the Russians inhabit Russia in Europe more particularly, the black earth belt east of Poland, Little Russia or Ukraina, and also Russia, in Asia; or Siberia.

THE POLES

The origin of the name "Pole" is "pole" (pronounced in two syllables) meaning "field" or "meadow," a "Polak" or "Polan" being one who inhabited or tilled the field. The Poles live in the western part of Russia, in Galicia or Austrian Poland and in East Prussia or German Poland. The Polish territory was once a unit consisting of the lands located between the Oder, the Carpathians and the Baltic, but after the partitions in 1772, 1793 and 1795 each of the governments, Russia, Austria, and Germany, helped itself to the Poland pie. From earliest times, the Poles had to defend themselves against the Germans who thought to subjugate them as they had the Slavs along the Elbe. Then too, the Polish territory was invaded by the Tatars, but against all this, including the bitter and unremitting Germanization, the Poles have preserved a splendidly tenacious national spirit. In 1900 there were 4,500,000 Poles in Austria; 8,500,000 in Russia; 3,500,000 in Germany, and 1,500,000 in the United States.

THE BULGARIANS

Three million Bulgarians live in Bulgaria proper and 100,000 in Roumelia, just south of Roumania, and west of the Black Sea, 1,200,000 in Macedonia, 600,000 in other parts of the Balkan peninsula and Turkey, 180,000 in Russia. The Bulgarians speak a Slavic dialect but are less homogeneous anthropologically than the Slavs proper as they have a very considerable admixture of foreign elements.

WHERE THE SERBIANS LIVE

The Lusatian or Lužice Serbs occupy territory along the central and lower Elbe and every effort has been made to exterminate or absorb them by the Germans. Only some 130,000 still preserve the language which their forefathers brought with them in the ninth century.

The Serbo-Croatians or Serbians live in the independent kingdom of Serbia, Montenegro, parts of Dalmatia, Slavonia, northwestern Albania and Macedonia, and in Bosnia and Hercegovina, which two states Austria "annexed" in 1908 after having administered their affairs since 1878. The very important fact that, as far as language is concerned, the inhabitants of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Hercegovina are homogenous people will doubtless clear for many the misconceptions under which they have been laboring in trying to determine why Montenegro and Serbia have worked together so harmoniously for union and for the possession of Bosnia-Hercegovina. It has not in any sense been a war merely for additional territory. It has been a purposeful, earnest struggle of a Slavic people to regain and reunite Slavic territory and as a unified Serbian people who

have had in turn to fight off the Turks from the south, the Hungarians from the east and the Austrian usurpers from the north. Montenegro, the smallest kingdom in the world, has successfully kept out the plundering Turk for over five hundred years. It has tried to regain territory just south of its borders lost to the Turks in past centuries, but when, through sheer force of arms, it had accomplished its purpose, the powers wrested the gains of battle from the intrepid Serbians of the country of the black mountains or "Černá Hora."

MOSAIC AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

The Slavs of Austria-Hungary are the least easily located geographically of any of the nationalities of this prolific branch. This is partly because the average reader is not familiar with the divisions of Austria itself that difficulty is experienced in learning the boundaries of the Slavic states. This lack of accurate information is not to be wondered at when one considers that Austria-Hungary was made up of twenty-one different states or provinces, which, individually taken, were kingdoms, principalities, margraviates, duchies, etc. Each of these states had a population of a wholly different character from its neighbor. Thus Salzburg, a province in western Austria is chiefly German, whereas Carinthia, just south of Salzburg, is a populous duchy with a very large percentage of Slovenians who are of Slav nationality. In the southeast is Hungary, the country of the Magyars, who are of Turkish-Tatar origin and in no way similar to their neighbors on the north, the Slovaks, a simple agricultural Slav people, who have suffered untold persecutions at the hands of both Hungarians and Germans.

In general, Austria, which name is derived from "Oesterreich," signifying in German "the eastern empire," is divided into Austria proper or Cisleithania, meaning "on this side of the Leitha" (a tributary of the Danube, on the frontiers of the archduchy of Austria and Hungary), and Transleithania or lands of the Hungarian crown. The Austro-Hungarian lands or states are Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Gortz, Gradiska, Istria, Trieste, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Galicia, Bukowina, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Hungary, Croatia, and Slavonia. In each of these states there is more or less of a Slav population. Bohemia, Moravia and Galicia have the largest Slavic population, these three states alone having some twenty millions of Czechs and Poles.

ONE-HALF OF AUSTRIA SLAVIC

As a matter of fact the census of 1910 gave Austria-Hungary a population of some 50,000,000 of whom fully half were Slavs, though by no means Slavs of the same nationalistic group. In the total of Austria's 25,000,000 Slavic inhabitants there were about 7,500,000 Czechs and Moravians, 2,500,000 Slovaks, 7,000,000 Poles, 6,000,000 Serbo-Croatians, 1,000,000 Russians and Ruthenians and 1,260,000 Slovenes.

TOTAL SLAV POPULATION

Professor Niederle has estimated very conservatively when he placed 157,000,000 as the figures for the Slavic population of the world in 1910. The Slavs are a prolific peo-

ple particularly the southern or Balkan groups. Among the Bulgarians, the birth rate is higher than among any other people of Europe. Were not the numerical strength of the Slavs decimated by a very high death rate (Petrograd has the highest death rate of any large city in the entire world), there would be no limit to estimates of the Slav population.

William T. Stead, the famous English editor who went down in the Titanic, predicted some ten or twelve years ago, the eventual supremacy of the Slavic people. "If for no other reason, the Slavs will rule by mere force of numbers," he wrote after a detailed statement of numerous other incontrovertible bases for his prophecy.

It is not too liberal an estimate to place the figures for the Slavic population of the world in 1918 at 180,000,000. Some students of statistics who consider themselves conservative have made the figures 200,000,000. But to avoid extremes we will stick to the former estimates. These 180,000,000 of Slavs represent almost one-tenth of the total population of the world and occupy about one-sixth of the earth's land surface. All but a fraction of this area is included in Russia.

MINIMIZING SLAV POPULATION OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

These figures for population and areas appear stupendous to the thinking person who considers them in their relation to the mass. But in reality they are not as fearsome as they seem or as they are made to appear by the Teuton, who has been seeing pan-Slavic spectres in the world of European politics. The German has systematically made the figures of Slav population in Austria-Hungary especially,

much less than in reality as it has been a trick of the government to make estimates according to the "language of intercourse" which by no means implied the mother tongue of the major portion of that country's people.

Thus, if a man were able to answer a simple question put to him in German, it would immediately be recorded of him "Mother-tongue, German." On the basis of thus inflated figures, the government would apportion the money for schools or the nationality to be favored in political representation. A German majority (?) gained by this dishonest practice would then be represented by a German in the Vienna parliament instead of by a Czech or Pole or Serbian who would be of the real majority.

DIFFICULTIES OPPOSING UNIFICATION

Exclusive of Russia which is geographically and linguistically more nearly homogeneous than any similar expanse of country, there is neither contiguity of Slavic territory nor unified religious, social or political ideals in the remaining Slavic states. The Russians, Bulgarians and Serbians are, as a rule, Greek Catholics, "orthodox" or "pravoslavni" whereas the Slovaks and Poles and a large number of the Czechs are Roman Catholics. Among the Czechs, Slovaks and Croats there are also many Protestants, whereas numerous groups of Serbs in Bosnia and Hercegovina have been adherents of Mohammedanism, thus further complicating the situation. The success of the powerful organization of the mediaeval Church in Germanizing the Slavs has been a cause for praise by all Pan German writers at all ages.

The diversity of religions, customs, and languages, has been a stumbling block to the political union of the branches

of the Slavic race fully as much as the fact that geographically these nations are not adjacent, but hemmed in on all sides by neighbors of totally different speech and customs.

Nevertheless a state was organized by the Slavs of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia (Slezsko) and Slovakia which resisted Germanization through the means of the mediaeval church most strenuously and even accepted its Christianity from Constantinople, in 863, through the missionaries, Cyril and Methodius, rather than from the emissaries of Rome. The territory embraced in these four kindred lands speaking a similar language now fitly represents the new Czechoslovakia—the first republic of Central Europe which the Hohenzollern and Hapsburgs thought they had fully Teutonized.

WHY "BOHEMIA?" WHY "CZECHS?"

In their fight for the independence of Bohemia, the Czechs and their descendants in America frequently encountered questions as to the proper title to be applied to the nation. Those who are informed usually reply by stating that "Bohemia" is the right term to apply to the country whereas "Czech" is technically the proper designation of the inhabitants of the country. In order to explain the distinction in the names applied to the country and to the people, a brief outline of the nation's early history is necessary.

ORIGIN OF WORD "CZECH"

The name "Czech" or "Čech" as it is correctly written should by all rights be the only title applied to the group of Slavic people occupying the 22,000 square miles in North-

ern Austria. It is a word originally designating the leader of the small band of Slavs who, in the fifth century, emigrating from Western Russia, settled in the valley of the Vltava (Moldau) in the heart of Europe and there have remained as the sturdy vanguard of the Slav people. General Fadejév well said in 1869 "Without Bohemia the Slav cause is forever lost; it is the head, the advance guard, of all Slavs." From the word "čech" is derived the poetic name "čechia" for Bohemia, this term corresponding to our symbolic "Columbia" for America.

ORIGIN OF WORD "BOHEMIA"

The names "Bohemia" and "Bohemians" as applied to the country and to this group of Slavs respectively, are derived from the word "Boji," or Boii, a Celtic tribe, occupying the basin of the Vltava and the Elbe before the permanent settlement there of the Czechs. Julius Caesar in his "Commentaries on the Gallic Wars" speaks frequently of the "Boji" and "Marcomanni." The word "Boii" was in the Latinized form, "Bojohemum," applied to the country of those early Celts who had occupied the country and eventually the name "Bojohemum" was changed to "Bohemia." In the later days, the Slav inhabitants became known as "Bohemians" to the outside races unfamiliar with the correct term "čech" which to facilitate pronunciation by non-Slavs is written "Czech." The "Cz" is pronounced like "ch" in "child," the "e" like "e" in "net," and the final "ch" is pronounced like "h" sounded gutturally.

THE THREE "BOHEMIANS"

Czechs and Americans of Czech blood have had to explain repeatedly and untiringly the correct origin of the

word "Bohemian." The confusion consequent on the misconceptions of the meaning of the word "Bohemian" has not been confined to the ignorant or unlettered. Even people of unusual intelligence have had a most hazy notion of what is meant by the term "Bohemian" as applied to an individual of a certain linguistic group. The dictionaries give three definitions: (1) A gipsy; (2) A person, especially a literary person, journalist, or artist, of unconventional and erratic habits; (3) Pertaining to Bohemia or its language or people. A native or naturalized inhabitant of Bohemia." All the modern dictionaries now give this last meaning the first place of prominence and importance, but formerly when one said one was a Bohemian the first or second definition as given above were the only ones the average person appeared to be acquainted with. Why the confusion?

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

It was the writer's experience, on innumerable occasions to note this confusion in the popular mind with respect to the three kinds of Bohemians. Some very good people have confounded the Czechs who have continuously occupied the country of Bohemia for nearly fifteen hundred years with wandering, nomadic tribes of "Tsigany." This error was probably due to the mistake made by the French who supposed the homeless Protestants exiled from Bohemia in 1620 were wandering gypsies, or it may have arisen as a result of the race of the chief character in M. W. Balfe's popular opera "The Bohemian Girl."

Some years ago in collecting contemporary reference material on Bohemia, the writer subscribed to a clipping bureau, which institution agreed to furnish articles on that

subject for a stated period. The heterogeneous matter which was received, all properly tagged as to date and publication, from that clipping bureau convinced the writer that everything and anything with the word "Bohemia" in it that came to the bureau's figurative net was regarded as "fish" and was immediately labelled thus and sent on. For instance, there arrived one day a long account of a most alluring picnic of journalists, illustrators and musicians of San Francisco with the head lines "High Jinks of the Bohemian Club." Another day there arrived a spicy article entitled "A Bohemian Cabaret Banquet" and describing a social function held by the ultra-ultra of New York's thrilling-for-thrills set. "The Bohemian Doings of Ruth Bryan," was another example of what the professional reader for the bureau looked upon as legitimate prey in his hunt for "references on the Bohemian people, language and country," as the writer's order was stated.

These few illustrations of hundreds of similar errors about the real Čzechs or Bohemians will make plain only one of the difficulties this group of Slavs has had to endure.

Will S. Monroe in his very readable historical work, "Bohemia and the Čechs" has sought through the title to discriminate between the name of the country of Bohemia and its inhabitants.

GROWTH OF BOHEMIA

Practically from the time of its settlement by the Czechs, Bohemia, being highly favored topographically, prospered and grew as an independent state, its kings becoming Electors of the Holy Roman Empire. In fact two of Bohemia's Kings—Charles IV and his son Václav (Wencelaus) were

elected Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. Bohemia even reached the Adriatic sea in the extension of its Empire under Premysl Ottokar II (1253-1278) but that ambitious ruler was overcome by Rudolph of Hapsburg who by this conquest really was the founder of the pretentious domain of the bloody partners of the Hohenzollerns. Unfortunately some of the Czech rulers had invited colonization of their land by Germans which proved detrimental at all later periods.

In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Bohemia led in the great literary and reform revivals that metamorphosed the world. In 1348 Charles IV laid in Prague, the foundation of the first University of Central Europe—this highest institution of learning ante-dating the first German university by fully fifty years.

The first school of art in Central Europe was also established at Prague at this time, the Modenese school of painting being founded there. John Huss and Jerome of Prague led the marvelous religious reforms of the early part of the fifteenth century. Huss stood firmly for the Bible and for individual conscience as opposed to Rome and Church authority and for his insistence on this "heretical" program, he was burned at the stake in Constance on the 6th of July, 1415. One hundred and twenty years later came Martin Luther, acknowledging the great debt he owed to John Huss whose writings had fired the author of the Augsburg Confession to the zeal which brought about the Reformation, for the greater part of which all credit should be given to the Bohemian Martyr of five centuries ago.

DOWNFALL OF BOHEMIA

Then came the Bohemian and Moravian Brethren (Unitas Fratrum) founded by Peter Chelčický to whom

Tolstoi owed his non-resistance doctrine. This organization carried forward to the seventeenth century the noble humanitarianism of Huss in the splendid example of John Amos Komensky (Comenius), educational reformer and founder of a science of education, who is best known for inventing the natural method of learning, the preparation of the first illustrated text book and many ideas that smack of the twentieth century and not of an age three hundred years previous.

The battle of Bilá Hora fought November 8, 1620, near Prague marked the burial of Bohemian independence for practically two hundred years. The constant invasions of Czech territory by the belligerents of the Thirty Years' War utterly exhausted the country and made it an easy prey for the Germanization and centralization plans of Joseph II in the eighteenth century. But instead of complete annihilation, the old free spirit, kept alive by zealous patriots, rose again in a nineteenth century renaissance and has characterized the Czechs as the most cultured and progressive of the peoples of Central Europe, their percentage of literacy exceeding that of even the much vaunted German. Today their age-old devotion to the principles of democracy and freedom are rewarded in the recognition by the governments of England, France, Italy, Japan and the United States of the independence of the Czechoslovak Republic, which under Prof. T. G. Masaryk as president bids fair to keep pace with the most progressive of the free peoples of the earth.

THE SLOVAKS

When the Magyars or Hungarians, a Mongolian tribe, invaded Hungary, they spelled disaster to Slavic unity for,

linguistically and racially, they were so different from the Czechs and Slovaks that they have ever been a scourge and a menace to those two Slavic peoples.

The Slovaks, most nearly allied in language and customs to the Czechs, occupy the fields and Carpathian mountains of northern Hungary. A splendid and ancient history is theirs though in latter centuries it has become one continuous record of bitter oppression suffered first at the hands of the Tatar invaders and then from the cruel Magyars of Hungary and of the always privileged Germans of the Hapsburg domain. Slovakia suffered the misfortune of being incorporated with Hungary in the tenth century and Magyarization has gone on relentlessly as a result. The Slovak language has been wonderfully developed since the time of Anton Bernolák but every means, every fiendish device has been used by the Magyars to utterly exterminate the race speaking it and to crush out completely all memory of the tongue hated so desperately by the Hungarians. It must not be forgotten that the Hungarian, Count Tisza now of tainted fame and unmourned memory, on December 15, 1875, said on the floor of the Hungarian Parliament, "There is no Slovak nation." He had done his best to annihilate it but it has lived just as the spirit of France has lived in Alsace-Lorraine despite the superhuman efforts of Hungary's ally to Germanize the "Lost Provinces." Over 2,000,000 Slovaks live in Hungary and nearly a million have emigrated to this country as much to avoid the persecutions of the Magyars as to earn the advantages of America.

THE SLOVENES

This branch of the Slavonic family represents over a million and a quarter individuals in Carinthia, Gorizia, Car-

niola, Styria, the northern part of Istria, Trieste and adjoining parts of northeastern Italy and western Hungary which has systematically oppressed them in almost the degree it has persecuted the Slovaks of its northwest districts.

About 100,000 Slovenians live in the United States. The Slovenes occupied the region around the Adriatic and far into the Alps, as early as the year 600.

THE CROATIANS OR CROATS

The Croats were originally united with the Serbians linguistically but later territorial, tribal and language differences arose. From the seventh to the twelfth century, the Croats were independent politically but in 1102, the Croatian Kingdom became attached to Hungary. Today the Croats occupy parts of Istria, Dalmatia, and Bosnia, all of Croatia, and portions of Slavonia and south Hungary. No less an authority than R. W. Seton Watson gives the Croats over 3,500,000 population with 1,750,000 nationals in Croatia-Slavonia alone. The Serbo-Croats of Bosnia and Turkey who are of Mohammedan faith, number, all told, about 750,000.

AUSTRIA HAS KEPT SLAVS APART

The difficulty of means of communication through unfriendly territory has been augmented by every possible sort of restriction which the Austrian government could devise, for it realized that an alliance of the Slavic states within its borders would be disastrous to its scheme for expansion. Austria understood the strength of the Slavs within its borders better than they themselves appreciated

it. For that reason it has spared no pains to foment petty quarrels between the Slav states within its territory just as it has been its policy to sow the seeds of dissention among the Balkan nations in Europe's "backyard." Austria has known that a united front among the free Slav states of Europe combined with those who are subordinated to her government or that of Germany would mean a throwing off of the hated Hapsburg yoke.

THE NEW DAWN

The political revolution of the liberalists of Europe in 1848 was the turning point in a new revival of national feeling and the Czechs began at this time to feel more strongly their close kinship to Russia, the Slovaks, Serbs, Croatsians, Slovenes and all brother Slavs. In the capital city of Bohemia, the first Pan Slavic Congress was held. At first this feeling of unity was evinced only along the line of literature but it soon passed over into national politics. The Czechs demanded again and again the restitution of their national rights and fought for democratic rule and the federalization of the Empire as opposed to the centralizing absolutism of Austria.

František Palácky, the most eminent of Bohemian historians and a member of the Austrian Parliament simply affirmed the stand of the Czechs in this defense. "The rights of nations consist really of the rights of Nature; no nation on earth has the right to demand that, for its benefit, a neighboring nation should sacrifice itself. Nature recognizes neither ruling nor serving nations. As long as the nations will have any cause to fear for the preservation of their nationality, for equality of rights, there can never be any possibility of contentment and peace in Austria."

Prof. Thomas G. Masaryk said some years ago—most aptly—“The national ideals of Bohemia and her Reformation are unrealizable in Austria-Hungary, where the organization of brute force secures to the minority the means of exploiting the majority. Bohemia can never accept the ideal of Prussia and Germany, which would enslave the world by military drill and Machiavellian misuse of science and culture.”

HOW AUSTRIA HAS GROWN

Austria's schemes for securing European territory have ranged from purchases, more or less enforced upon the original possessor, cleverly planned marriages of scions of the mentally degenerate house of Hapsburg with members of adjoining states which then were willy-nilly, “annexed” to the empire, to wars of lustful conquest of territory of some weaker or dependent state which has no fearless or powerful protector. A very sly but successful method which Austria has employed to acquire more land has been the apparently altruistic and magnanimous one of establishing a protectorate (?) over some nearby state which is or may be threatened by some unfriendly power. This protectorate eventually results in another “Land Grab” or to put the term “stealing” into more elegant and less offensive English, Austria then “annexes” the previously protected (?) or “peacefully penetrated” country. In this manner Austria acquired Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose population is chiefly Serbian, that is, Slavic, though as a result of numerous invasions by the Turks, a large portion of the inhabitants are Mohammedan in religion. The Berlin treaty of 1878 over which Bismarck presided, put Bosnia and Herzegovina under Austria's administration. In the autumn of

1909 when there was a constitutional revolution in Turkey, Austria-Hungary formally annexed the united Serbian provinces, adding thereby 20,000 square miles to its territory and 1,900,000 to its population.

The Serbians, however, never forgot their nationality even though submerged in the Austrian territory. The Serbians of Bosnia-Herzegovina, like those in the independent kingdom of Serbia, had dreamed of a reunited Serbia, which their free brothers in Montenegro were likewise ready to join. The Croats too have stubbornly refused to be swallowed up in Hungary which has tried to treat them as a subject nation. Croatia and Slavonia have been consistent and unremitting in their hostility to the Magyars and have stood for an independent South Slav or Yugoslav state.

HOW AUSTRIA BALKED SERBIA

Austria-Hungary, with its 260,943 square miles of area, second only to Russia in matter of geographical extent in Europe, still turned its greedy eyes southward towards Serbia. At the close of the Balkan war, when the matter of settlement of boundaries was left to the powers of Europe, it was Austria which refused to allow Serbia to reap the reward of its sturdy campaign against the merciless Turk. It likewise held out against allowing Serbian Montenegro to hold Scutari, which it had won by means fairer than Austria ever employed. Serbia had tried repeatedly to secure an opening to the Adriatic sea, for its extensive commerce which it has been compelled to send over the Danube, into Austria. It had to submit to delay, insolence, injustice and repeated losses at the hands of its powerful neighbor, which could and often did prohibit the transfer of perishable goods across its borders from Serbia. Serbia could do

nothing about it, for it was small and weak in comparison, while Austria was great and powerful. It realized that it stood in the way of Austria's otherwise unimpeded march to the Aegean sea, where it had hoped for many generations to secure the fine city and port of Salonika. It was part of the Bismarckian "all Deutch" policy to Germanize the entire central portion of Europe. Bismarck thought it would be best to leave western Europe to the Italic nations such as the French, Spanish, Italian, etc. The extreme east of Europe the Russians were welcome to keep, was his theory, but central Europe from the Baltic and North seas to the Adriatic and Aegean must become wholly German. All other elements—Slavic, French, Danish, Magyar—must be wiped out of existence. To the Teuton it looked easy to overwhelm and wipe out of existence or make over into Germans the Slavic states of the Balkans, as well as the Slavic kingdoms, margraviates and duchies composing the bulk of the Austra-Hungarian empire. It appears that the German has no conception of the fact that the instinct of nationality is something that cannot be killed in a man; that it is independent of country occupied, institutions which may be established or of government control.

After Germany's absorption of Schleswig-Holstein and Alsace-Lorraine, the war was carried into the south, Rather, one might say, that the policy of pan-Germanism was continued for there really never had been any cessation of the process of Germanizing the Czechs, Slovaks, Croatians, Poles, Serbians and all other Slavs within the German or Austrian territory. Hungary, though not a Slav country, was likewise in the path of the Austrian displeasure for it persisted in its demands for the recognition of the Magyar tongue.

And so the war just concluded is but the culmination of the ambitions of one branch of the great Indo-European family for supremacy over the other members. It is not even the entire branch but only the German portion of the Teutonic group which, in this greatest of family quarrels, insisted that might gives right to trample on the claims of the little sisters and brothers.

PLEA OF SMALL NATIONS

Richard Le Gallienne, English poet and critic, in his earnest lines entitled, "The Cry of the Little People, says:

"And what shall you gain if you take us, and bind us and beat us with
thongs,
And drive us to sing underground in a whisper our sad little songs?—
Forbid us the very use of our heart's own nursery tongue—
Is this to be strong, you nations—is this to be strong?
Your vulgar battle to fight, and your shopman conquests to keep,
For this shall we break our hearts, for this shall our old men weep?"

It would seem that Le Gallienne were indeed voicing hopeless impotence before mere might in his concluding stanza:

"The cry of the little peoples went up to God in vain,
For the world is given over to the cruel sons of Cain:
The hand that would bless us is weak, and the hand that would break
us is strong,
And the power of pity is naught but the power of a song.
The dreams that our fathers dreamed today are laughter and dust,
And nothing at all in the world is left for a man to trust.
Let us hope no more or dream of prophesy or pray,
For the iron world no less will crash on in its iron way;
And nothing is left but to watch, with a helpless, pitying eye,
The kind old aims for the world, and the kind old fashions die."

But dawn has come. Great nations have heeded the despairing cry of the "Little Peoples" and splendidly they supported the principle of self-determination. The formal

recognition by England, France, Italy, Japan and the United States of the Independence of the Czechoslovak government, the first Slav state carved out of "Mittel-Europa" is but a small beginning of the meting out of justice to the oppressed nations of the earth who shall share with the powerful states the fundamental and inalienable right of every people to organize their own government. Poland is to be reunited. Its dreams will come true. The Slavs of southern Austria and of the Balkans will form a great and democratic Jugoslavia. "Austria delenda est" and out of the corruption of a decayed and outlived government there are springing forth new born nations with age old aspirations for freedom. Britannia, France, Italia—and now Slavia lead by star crowned Columbia joins the circle of free and democratic nations.

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